

30217 to 30221. ASPARAGUS spp.**Asparagus.**

From La Mortola, Ventimiglia, Italy. Presented by Prof. Alwin Berger, curator of the garden. Received March 23, 1911.

Seeds of the following:

30217. ASPARAGUS ACUTIFOLIUS L.

30218. ASPARAGUS COOPERI Baker.

Distribution.—On the wooded slope of Mount Boschberg, at an elevation of 2,800 to 4,000 feet, in the Somerset division of the central region of Cape Colony.

30219. ASPARAGUS CRISPUS Lam.

30220. ASPARAGUS OFFICINALIS L.

30221. ASPARAGUS SPRENGERI Rgl.

Introduced for the work of the Office of Truck-Crop Diseases in breeding a resistant asparagus and also various forms for florists' use.

30222 to 30224.

From Paraguay. Presented by Mr. C. F. Mead, Villa Encarnación. Received March 24, 1911.

Seeds of the following; notes by Mr. Mead:

30222 and 30223. LAGENARIA VULGARIS Ser.

Gourd.

"This maté or small gourd is of the kind used hereabouts in conjunction with a bombilla in making the maté as used here for drinking the Paraguay tea (No. 29097). Plant seeds where there is a trellis for the vines to run on, and do not pick maté until fully ripened."

30224. ASTRONIUM URUNDEUVA (Allemo) Engler.

Urunday.

"In Guarany this is known as *urundai-mi*. This is a tree very similar to quebracho, but preferable for building purposes, both in strength, durability, and because it is lighter in weight, but this particular variety works harder with tools. Specific gravity 1.172 to .917, tensile strength about 20,000 pounds to the square inch, and crushing strength of 14,000 pounds to the square inch. Its resistance to rot is of the best—in fact, its longevity is unknown, there being bridges in the old line of the Paraguay Central, built in the time of the elder Lopez in the sixties, the piles of which are sound to-day, the part below ground being almost petrified. Whenever a pile has had to be replaced it was because insects had eaten the part above ground, and in repairs the general rule is to excavate to the first splice and simply put a new piece on top. For heavy piling or foundation work when extreme durability and strength is required, bridge work, or, in fact, any heavy framing where freedom from splitting is a factor, I can recommend this wood highly, both from my own experience and that of others who have used it hereabouts for decades.

"Of the urunday, there are three classes: Blanca (white), colorado (red), and negra (black). This seed is of the latter kind, by far the best of the three; it has a grain interwoven, seemingly even at the rings, as it is impossible to split it in any direction, a very desirable attribute, but trying to the nerves of mechanics working same. The name is a misnomer, as the wood is colored like mahogany except that the rings are black, making when cut up a most magnificent wood for veneer purposes, especially for furniture, picture frames, or house finishing. In this class of work it will easily rival rosewood. The urunday is a native of subtropical climates, so it may possibly thrive in parts of the South or Southwestern States. It wants a black soil, rich in humus, and does best in lower levels of hills. It should grow to a height of 15 meters